



May 24, 2001

Kimberly Topper  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Food and Drug Administration:

I am a family practice physician in rural, Northern Maine.

I have several patients who benefit from chronic opioid therapy for non-malignant conditions. These people, generally, are older and generally suffering from wide-spread degenerative joint disease or other chronic painful conditions.

These medicines are of great benefit to my patients with their chronic pain. I try to be very selective in whom I choose to use powerful narcotic medications on a chronic basis. For those whom seem to be appropriate for long-term opioid pain management, long-acting medications seem to work well. I would certainly hope that there would be no intrusion from the federal government to restrict mine or any other physician's ability to appropriately and effectively treat patients with chronic non-malignant pain with any agent that is effective.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
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**WASHBURN REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER**  
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(207) 325-3310  
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Mars Hill, Maine 04758  
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19 North Street  
Presque Isle, Maine 04769  
(207) 760-8167

RE: none

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Thank-you very much for your consideration in this matter. Please feel free to reach me at the above address or at (207)325-3310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

Jay Reynolds, M.D.

JR/cts srm